

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

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INSPIRATIONAL SPEAKERS SCHEDULED FOR NATIONAL CONFERENCE

INDIANAPOLIS—A national conference focusing on how to reduce incarceration of African-American males while providing greater educational opportunities will attract renowned experts on education and personal development.

The Seventh African-American Male National Conference (AAMNC) will take place in Indianapolis October 26-28. The conference's theme is "Education vs. Incarceration."

"We have scheduled some of the most dynamic, inspirational speakers in the country," said Rep. Vernon G. Smith (D-Gary, IN), chairman of the AAMNC. "We have a minister who attracts thousands to hear his message wherever he goes throughout the country. We have one of the most respected Afrocentric authors in the nation. In addition, we have one of the rising stars in the African-American national community. He is the National Director of Education for the NAACP at the age of only 33.

"We also have one of the most respected social psychologists in the United States who heads the nation's pre-eminent Black think tank on African-American social issues," continued Dr. Smith. "We have a celebrity from BET (the Black Entertainment Network) who is a great inspiration to young people everywhere. And we have a minister who turned his life around in prison. His story is truly remarkable and one that is the subject of a documentary film. I think you can see why I am excited. Our speakers are outstanding. This is a conference not to be missed."

Dr. Frederick (Freddie) Douglas Haynes III will give the keynote address Thursday morning, Oct. 27. Dr. Haynes has been senior pastor of Friendship-West Baptist Church in Dallas for more than 20 years. His message is that "If Christians are to positively impact the world, they must be willing to minister beyond the walls of the church." He is a proponent of faith-based community development and has put that philosophy in practice with his successful Dallas congregation. Dr. Haynes draws thousands of followers to hear his message anywhere he travels.

Dr. Jawanza Kunjufu will be the noon keynote speaker on Oct. 27. Dr. Kunjufu is president of African American Images, a publisher of Afrocentric books. Dr. Kunjufu has written more than 20 books about issues affecting the Black community, including self-esteem and collective values in addition to liberation and skill development.

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At the age of 33, Dr. John H. Jackson is the National Director of Education for the NAACP, the youngest person ever to hold that position. He is primarily responsible for directing the Association's 2,200 adult, college and youth units in the effort to close the achievement gap by ensuring resource equity, increasing parental involvement, improving teacher quality, as well as building local and state networks. In 1999, President Bill Clinton appointed Dr. Jackson, at the age of 27, to the Office for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Education where he served as Senior Policy Advisor. Dr. Jackson will address the convention during the Oct. 27 dinner.

Dr. Julia Hare, PhD is the National Executive Director of the San Francisco Black Think Tank, which she co-founded with her husband. Well-known for her sense of humor, she has appeared on numerous national television programs. Dr. Hare also has been on the faculty of Langston University, the University of San Francisco, the City College of San Francisco, and the District of Columbia Teachers College. The prominent social psychologist will keynote the Friday morning, Oct. 28 session.

Jeffrey I. Johnson is better known to the nation's television viewers as "Cousin Jeff" on BET's *Rap City*. He also is the host of BET's *The Cousin Jeff Chronicles*. In addition to his television career, he is the vice president of the Hip Hop Summit Action Network. Known for his passionate oratory, Johnson has been a popular speaker, especially among Black youth. Johnson was formerly the National Director of the NAACP Youth and College Division where he was responsible for more than 700 youth units, which represented 60,000 young people. Johnson will speak at the lunch on Oct. 28.

The Rev. Alphonso Bailey, of Indianapolis, will address the conferees during the afternoon of Oct. 28. Rev. Bailey was a successful athlete in college, but kept getting into trouble. Eventually, he ended up in prison where he found discipline through boxing. He went on to become a world-ranked boxer. Rev. Bailey's story is now the subject of a documentary titled *Down But Not Out*. His positive message urges others to persevere at the hard work of changing one's life, even when the end may not be in sight, and to head directly into change rather than run from it.

Advance registration, until Oct. 20, is \$100 per person for one day and \$125 per person for the whole conference. After the deadline, registration goes up \$25 for both options. Lunches and dinner are included in the registration costs.

Student registration is \$25 per person until Oct. 20. After that date, the cost increases to \$35. Special rates are available for chaperones.

Separate tickets are available for the lunches and dinner. Lunches cost \$25 and dinner tickets are \$50. Dinner tables, seating eight, are available for \$350.

For more information, to register or to purchase lunch and dinner tickets, contact ICSSBM Deputy Director Steven Ingram at steven.ingram@fssa.in.gov or telephone him at 317-233-8849.

One also can register on-line at www.in.gov/fssa/icssbm/conference. Go to the right-hand side of the page and click registration. There is also additional information about the conference and its speakers on the site as well as information about a special hotel rate for conference attendees.